

Preface

Imagine you're leaving home one morning, coffee mug in hand, to go about your business. As you lock the door and turn towards your car, you notice movement out of the corner of your eye. Turning your head towards the neighbor's house, you see a Tyrannosaurus Rex calmly eating your neighbor and his dog, who were out on their morning walk.

We all know that there has not been a Tyrannosaurus Rex on this planet for a very long time. As a result, your mind refuses to process the information that your senses are conveying to it. For a moment, you experience a glitch in your mental software.

Hopefully, your brain will be able to reboot and take action before the dinosaur in question notices you, his second course, standing there trying to process facts that run counter to everything you have been taught your entire life.

In a similar fashion, when I began to read the scriptures contained in these notes, my mind did not process them at first. Because all my life I "knew" that the end times were going to happen a certain way. But as I read the plain text of scripture, the realization of what I am about to share with you, began to dawn on me. I began to get excited about having a front row seat for the end of days.

I know that there's a wild ride ahead for us. Especially if you are a believer. Far from being morbid, or having a death wish, this knowledge enables me to take great comfort in Romans 8:35-39, and 2 Corinthians chapter 5. Because, whether I view the end from here on earth, or in heaven, or both. I win.

*"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."
{Romans 8:37}*

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Tell ‘em what you’re going to tell ‘em

Unless you’re in one of those “phony baloney, plastic banana, good-time rock ‘n’ roller” churches, or you’ve been living in a cave for 50 years, you know that current events are building towards something big.

If you are a Christian, you understand that the only reliable source of information about the past, the present, and the future is the Word of God. When I started studying, with just a Bible, and a word search program, I started finding things that I never imagined. So I want to share them with you.

The scripture from which I draw the conclusions below, are presented in the pages that follow. *I ask only that you check the scriptures to see if these things be true, and to correct me with scripture if they are not.* This is too important, and time is too short for my ego to get in the way. I don’t have to “be right,” but I do have to “get it right.” I would invite you to contact me via the email address on page one with any questions, corrections, comments, or suggestions for making this information accessible to a wider audience.

The really short version:

- Jesus was born 4,000 years after the creation of the world, give or take some months. The Bible gives us hour and the day of his death, because that is most important. But we can only estimate the season of his birth.
- Based on past performance, I believe it is reasonable and prudent to expect that the return of Jesus will occur 2,000 years after he departed, give or take some months.
 - He left in the spring of 30 AD.
 - Jesus (Emmanuel...God with us) was with us on earth for 33 years. Because God was present in the flesh with us (Colossians 2:9-10), was that 33 years a “pause” in what we think of as the linear timeline? i.e. why did he not return in 1996? (4004 BC + 2000 years)
- The bodily return of Jesus at the last trumpet, will commence his 1,000 year reign here on earth. The conclusion of which will complete the full 7,000 year history of the old heaven and earth.
- “The day of the Lord” referred to in the Bible IS that 1,000 year reign of Christ.
- There are only two resurrections yet to come. The first is for the righteous, the second is for the unrighteous. The first resurrection, that is of the

righteous dead, immediately precedes the rapture (“six food head start”). This resurrection of the righteous dead occurs at the last trumpet.

- When things start happening, they will happen quickly, and as time gets shorter, we will have more complete knowledge of exactly when he will be back for us.
- Preachers have been talking about how “it could happen any day,” and people’s eyes glazed over. But now, it’s time to wake up and get ready.
- There is no “secret rapture of the Gentile church” before the antichrist (the beast) is revealed.
- Believers will experience tribulation. Many of us will be killed, whether by war, famine, disease, or at the hands of the beast, to whom will be given power to “*make war with the saints, and to overcome them:*” (Revelation 13:7, Daniel 7:25)

Research on the End Times

First Principles:

- *Jehovah, God is absolutely sovereign* – Job chapter 38-42
 - Isaiah 14:5-19, Colossians 1:16-17, etc
 - There is only one “most high” – even Lucifer knows it: *“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” (Isaiah 14:14)*
- *“Every word of God is pure”* – Proverbs 30:5
 - The Bible that I hold in my hand is the very word of God as he intended me to have it. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” (2 Timothy 3:16).*
 - The same sort of folks who reject the idea that the Bible is divinely inspired, letter for letter, don’t seem to take issue with claims of ‘automatic writing,’ by channelers and mystics.
 - God promised that his Word will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8, Luke 21:33, etc)
 - The canon of scripture was not “determined at the counsel of Nicaea,” nor were any books “banned from the Bible.” The Holy Spirit directed the hearts of believers to share the scriptures among each other (Colossians 4:16). These scriptures (2 Peter 3:15-16) were assembled, collated, and passed down through history by local churches.
 - Man has not corrupted the text, nor has corruption “crept in over time.” Psalms chapter 12 specifies that *“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”*
 - Satan HAS made counterfeits, using men from Origen to Westcott & Hort, and others. But the preserved Word of God has remained pure, has been preserved, and is available for any who choose to seek it out.
 - **For those who disagree: If God cannot preserve his Word, how then can we trust that he can preserve his saints?**
- *“Scripture cannot be broken”* John 10:35
 - Jesus spoke these words when exposing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Pharisees were the Jewish religious leaders of the day. Like celebrity megachurch pastors, popes, authors, bishops, scholars, professors, etc.

- This statement applies across the whole of scripture. The Bible MUST be a consistent document all the way through. Any contradiction would render the entire book void.
- When Jesus said “*I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven*” (Luke 10:18), does that mean it happened in the past? How does that square with Job 1:6 & 2:1? Doesn’t that mean the war in heaven described in Revelation chapter 12 must have already happened? How can that be? If Satan has already been cast down from heaven, he can no longer be “*the accuser of our brethren*” (Revelation 12:10).
 - OR... do these statements make perfect sense when we consider that Jesus IS the very person of Jehovah God, in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16)?
 - “Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58) That is a real head twister. But if we simply accept that God exists outside of our three dimensional time-space, it all fits neatly together. The war in heaven is a future event in our timeline, but God is in all timelines “*yesterday, today, and for ever.*” Satan has not yet been cast down to our world, but he will be soon (Revelation chapter 12).
- “Words mean things” – I told my son, almost in jest, to put these words on my tombstone.
 - Every word in the scripture is there because God wanted it there. For example, “All” means all. “The” is a singular article.
 - If we want to identify the meaning of a word, we should see other instances to get the meaning from the context. See the word “folly” for an example.
 - Sentence structure matters: When someone is standing “at the door,” that means something different than when someone is standing “in the door.”
 - Examine the scripture as if you were diagramming the sentences. Be aware of subject, verb, object, and modifier. God is a God of order and precision.
- “Hookers & Blow” – Either the whole thing is true as written. OR... God is a liar and unworthy of worship. In which case, we would be better off chasing pleasures of the flesh. We cannot have it both ways.
 - I say this not to be inflammatory, but to illustrate how committed we must be to trusting his Word as truth.

- Be “all in” when it comes to believing his words, “as little children” believe their fathers (Matthew 18:3), regardless of what men say or write, about history, science, or theology (John 16:13, Romans 3:4).

My Background:

During my childhood, our family attended a free will Baptist church until I was 12 or 13. Then we moved to an “independent, fundamental Baptist church.”

C.I. Scofield was the fourth member of the Trinity, and James Strong’s numbers were infallible. (I’m exaggerating to make a point. But you can probably relate).

Many such churches adhere to dispensational theology. A foundation of dispensationalism, seems to be the strange idea that Israelite believers and Gentile believers, make up two separate entities, and that God deals with them in different ways. Additionally, the pre-tribulation rapture of the Gentile church seems to be of critical importance to many who hold a dispensationalist world view.

If I had a nickel for every time I’ve heard “The next event on God’s prophetic timeline, is the rapture of the Gentile church. After which, the Antichrist is revealed, and a seven year period known as *“the great tribulation”* ensues,” I could probably buy lunch at Burger King.

When my father died, 22 Dec 2008, it was as if God was telling me “wake up boy, it’s time for you to get serious about me.” So, I started studying the Bible on my own. Just the Bible, no commentaries. Dad taught me that the Bible is the best interpreter of itself. He had lots of Bible history books, books about creation science, and things like that, but very few commentaries on the Bible.

The Journey:

So, I started reading, and looking up instances of words with a Cruden’s concordance.

Side note: some years later, I came upon a pretty good piece of search software called Pure Bible Search, that I’m really impressed with. It is completely free, without registration: <https://www.purebiblesearch.com/>

Ultimately, I discovered that many of the things the preachers of my youth said from the pulpit, which I just accepted without checking, are not actually in the Bible.

Romans 10:9-13, Ephesians 2:11-19, Ephesians 4:5-6, Galatians 3:26-29, 1 John 2:1-2, and others, lay out in plain text that there is NO separation between Israeli believers and Gentile believers. There is *“One Lord, one faith, one baptism”* (Ephesians 4:1-6), and we all go through the same door (John 14:6 *“no man”* means no man).

In Acts 2:47, we are told that “...the Lord added to *the church* daily such as should be saved.” Yet Cornelius, the first Gentile convert, didn’t show up until years later in Acts chapter 10 (The same chapter in which God “cleaned the pig,” as opposed to those who say he did away with unclean things. See also 1 Timothy 4:4-5).

Another variance I discovered, is that nowhere in the plain text of the Bible, have I been able to find any reference to “the great tribulation.” Yes, he speaks of “great tribulation,” but not “THE great tribulation.” (words mean things). Nor is there any mention of a seven year period of tribulation; great or otherwise.

Additionally, there is no mention of “the antichrist,” a word which only appears 4 times in scripture (1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, and 2 John 1:7).

My example of antichrist is not meant to deny that there is an antichrist. Rather, I mean to be more precise with the language I use. The word “antichrist” does not occur even once in the books of Revelation or Daniel. But they both use “the beast” a lot.

My conclusion is that “the antichrist” that Christians speak of, should more accurately be referred to as “the beast.” Further, as I will show later, I believe the Bible identifies him by name.

He said in 1 John 2:18 “*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come...*” (which one could conceivably infer was a reference to a particular being) “*...even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*” (this segment of the passage, as well as the other three references shown above, clearly communicate that *antichrist is a spirit*).

Side note: 1 John 2:18 says they were living in “the last time” 2,000 years ago (this will become relevant later).

On scripture: *real vs counterfeit (just a few examples, of thousands)*

- Who fell from heaven in Isaiah 14:12? Was it Lucifer, or was it Jesus (“O morning star” [Revelation 22:16], “O day star” [2 Peter 1:19])?
- Who was in the fiery furnace with the three Hebrew Children in Daniel 3:25: Was it the Son of God? Or was it merely “a son of the gods?” Nebuchadnezzar knew full well that they were servants of the most high God, as he said in Daniel 3:26.
- Is Jesus God’s “*only begotten Son?*” or is Jesus the “only son” or the “one and only son” of God?
 - If Jesus is the only son, or the one and only son, how can John 1:12 be true for me?

- How can there be “sons of God” in Genesis 6, or Job 1, or Job 2, and elsewhere?
- Who is Jesus’ father according to Luke 2:43?
- How do you get rid of particularly nasty devils? (Matthew 17:21)

Seven Days, Seven Thousand Years:

I believe that the total age of the earth at the end of Jesus' physical reign, will be 7,000 years, and it is illustrated by, or connected somehow, to the seven days of creation.

The reason I believe this to be so comes from several places:

- The most straightforward is 2 Peter 3:8 “...*one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*”
- Psalms 94 says “For *a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.*” Every letter of the Bible has a purpose. Why would God refer to a thousand years being “as but yesterday?”
- In 2 Peter 3:10, He says “But *the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that art therein shall be burned up.*”

I've highlighted the curious phrase “in the which.” *In the what?* Looking at the context of the sentence, it seems to me that he's saying that *in (as in “inside” or during) the day of the Lord*, the heavens shall pass away with a great noise.... Like a “big bang” even ;-)

We know from Revelation 20:3-4 that Satan will be bound, and shut up in the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and during that same time, the saints of God will reign with Christ on earth.... *THEN...* {Revelation 20:7} “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,”

Following the defeat of Satan at the end is the great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

After the great white throne judgment, we see in Chapter 21 “...*a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away...*” Which fits with 2 Peter 3:10 above, *in the day of the Lord*, the heaven and the earth will be burned up. It makes sense that this would happen at the close of the day, after all of the other scheduled events had taken place.

- Exodus 31:15, Exodus 35:2, Leviticus 23:3, Deuteronomy 5:14 and elsewhere speak of the seventh day as the sabbath of rest for the people.
- Leviticus 25:4-5 speaks of the seventh year as a sabbath of rest for the land.
- Hebrews 4:1-11 also speaks of “a rest” for the people of God. Careful study of the word usage, and sentence structure is in order...

- Particularly the way God links rest on the seventh day with the finished work of Jesus and the entering into rest of those of us who have believed on him. {Hebrews 4:3-5} *"For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. {4} For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. {5} And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest."*

the phrase *from the foundation of the world* occurs six times in the Bible: Matthew 13:35, Matthew 25:34, Luke 11:50, Hebrews 4:3, Revelation 13:8, Revelation 17:8.

These scriptures speak of the mystery of God and the finished work of Jesus, who redeemed us, and made us whole.

In the Beginning:

As should be obvious by the first principles, I hold to the young earth creation model. *"And the evening and the morning were the first day."* (Genesis chapter 1)

Earlier, I mentioned that I do not care for commentaries. I do, however, find useful the research of others who use the Bible as the only foundation for applicable scientific or historical research.

"The Chronology of the Old Testament" by Floyd Nolen Jones (no relation) is a great resource. He cites, and documents from scripture, which he holds to be the sole authority for truth in his research, and compares his findings with other researchers throughout history, Bishop James Ussher most prominently.

The tables below are taken directly from page *ix* of the 2015 edition of *"Chronology,"* and lay out the timeline from creation to the fall of the temple in Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians.

From creation to Abraham's sojourn

Scripture	Event	# of years	A.M. Anno Mundi
Genesis 1	Creation	0	0
Genesis 5:3	Seth born when Adam was	130	130
Genesis 5:6	Enos born when Seth was	105	235
Genesis 5:9	Cainan born when Enos was	90	325
Genesis 5:12	Mahalaleel born when Cainan was	70	395
Genesis 5:15	Jared born when Mahalaleel was	65	460
Genesis 5:18	Enoch born when Jared was	162	622
Genesis 5:21	Methuselah born when Enoch was	65	687
Genesis 5:25	Lamech born when Methuselah was	187	874
Genesis 5:28	Noah born when Lamech was	182	1056
Genesis 11:10	Shem born when Noah was	502	1558
Genesis 7:6	The flood happened when Noah was <i>(add 600 to Noah's birth year A.M to get flood year.)</i>	600	1656
Genesis 11:10	Arphaxad born when Shem was	100	1658
Genesis 11:12	Salah born when Arphaxad was	35	1693
Genesis 11:14	Eber born when Salah was	30	1723
Genesis 11:16	Peleg born when Eber was	34	1757
Genesis 11:18	Reu born when Peleg was	30	1787
Genesis 11:20	Serug born when Reu was	32	1819
Genesis 11:22	Nahor born when Serug was	30	1849
Genesis 11:24	Terah born when Nahor was	29	1878
Genesis 11:26	Abraham born when Terah was	130*	2008
Genesis 12:4	Abraham enters Canaan at age	75*	2083

*Abraham is often mistaken for Terah's oldest son, because he is listed first in the record. {Genesis 11:26} *"And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran."*

However, upon Terah's death at 205 years old, God commanded Abraham to go *"unto a land that I will shew thee" (Gen 12:1) "So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he*

departed out of Haran." (Gen 12:4). Because of this, we know that Abraham was born 75 years before Terah's death, when Terah was 130. $205-75=130$

From Abraham's sojourn to the destruction of Jerusalem

Scripture	Event	# of years	A.M. Anno Mundi
Genesis 12:4	Abraham enters Canaan and begins sojourn at age 75	75	2083
Genesis 12:10, Exodus 12:40-41, Galatians 3:16-17	God made a covenant with Abraham, who then left for Egypt because of famine; until the Exodus from Egypt (430 years to the day)	430	2513
1 Kings 6:1	From the Exodus to the start of the temple, 479 years (in the 480 th year, which is 479 years plus 16 days)	479	2992
1 Kings 11:42, 1 Kings 6:1, 1 Kings 6: 37-38	Start of Temple to the division of the kingdom. Solomon reigned 40 years, Temple begun in his fourth year	37	3029
Ezekiel 4:4-6	From the division of the kingdom to the destruction of Jerusalem in the 390 th year (inclusively numbered 389*)	389	3418

**The kingdom of Judah fell to Babylon in 586 BC. Hence the date of creation is: (3418 A.M.)+(586 B.C.) = creation year of 4004 B.C.*

Event	Day	Date	Time	Year	Calendar
Creation	Sunday	September 21	6:00 PM	4004 BC	Gregorian
Birth of Jesus		Springtime		4 BC	
Crucifixion	Thursday	April 4	3:00-4:00 PM	30 AD	Gregorian
Resurrection	Sunday	April 7	Morning	30 AD	Gregorian
Ascension	Thursday	May 16		30 AD	Gregorian
Pentecost	Sunday	May 26		30 AD	Gregorian

6:00PM September 21, 4004 BC is a bold claim. For which Ussher has been roundly maligned. The Bible does not specify the date. However, the Jews, and other ancient people began their year in the fall (1 Tishri, Rosh Hashanah, "head of the year"), and their day at eventide ("*and the evening and the morning were the first day*"). See also Leviticus 23:32. Therefore, Ussher selected the first Sunday after the autumnal equinox of 4004 BC to begin the count. While we cannot as yet prove or

disprove Ussher's specific date. "It is a logical conclusion that represents clarity of thought" according to Dr. Jones, the author of "Chronology."

Interestingly, French astronomer Simon LaPlace found Ussher's timeline corresponded with the "great axis of the earth's orbit coincided with the line of the equinoxes, and consequently when true & mean equinoxes were united."

What I've Learned:

- *God is sovereign:* Isaiah 29:16, 46:10, 55:11, John 1:3, Romans 9:19-20, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 11:3. He does not need a backup plan, his train is never late, and he does not need a do-over.
- *God is a God of order:* Past performance IS a guarantee of future results. Exodus 20:11, Job 33:5, Malachi 3:6, 1 Corinthians 14:40, Hebrews 1:3, and many more.
- *God is always on time:* Galatians 4:4

Two more passages from the Old Testament jumped out at me:

{Hosea 6:1-3} "Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

{2} *After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*

{3} *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."*

The phrase "...in the third day he will raise us up..." makes little sense until read in the light of 2 Peter 3:8. Furthermore, this makes sense of the admonition from John 2:18, and 2 Corinthians 10:11 that we are living in the last days. Jesus was born at the dawning of the 5th millennium (5th day of the week when figuring one day as a thousand years). After two days (thousand years) he will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up "in the resurrection at the last day." (John 11:24). In the third day (the next thousand years) we will live in his sight, and "reign with him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6)

{Joshua 3:1-4} "And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.

{2} *And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;*

{3} *And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.*

{4} *Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore."*

In Leviticus 16 it tells us that one of the jobs of the high priest was to enter into the most holy place once each year, and apply blood to the mercy seat of the ark of the testimony, upon which the Lord dwelt.

In Joshua chapter 3, the ark of the covenant, went over Jordan first. Then, it was followed 2,000 cubits later by the people of God.

I believe this is a picture of the people of God (*they that are Christ's at his coming*. 1 Corinthians 15:23) following our great high priest (Hebrews 4:14) 2,000 years after after he sprinkled the ark with his own blood.

Based on these passages, and his past performance, I expect that the return of Jesus will occur 2,000 years after he departed, give or take some months.

2,000 years ago, Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts of the Lord. Perhaps when he returns, he will fulfill the fall feasts?

The Day of The Lord:

The phrase “the day of the Lord” appears 21 times in the Bible, most of which occur in the Old Testament. These Old and New Testament references to the day of the Lord provide a composite picture of what that day will be like. However, there is a different tenor in the reference to the day of the Lord in the Old Testament, than there is in the New. In the Old Testament, the day of the Lord comes with an ominous warning of judgment and terror. Whereas in the New Testament, it is about hope.

Isaiah 2:10-22 *“For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty...”*

“And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.” (vs 19)

Isaiah 13:6-18 *“Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand;”*

“Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.” (vs 13)

Jeremiah 46:1-12 *“For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood...”*

Joel 1:14-20 *“Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.”*

Joel 2:1-11 *“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; (2) A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness as the*

morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations... (4) The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. (5) Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array."

The passage above sounds to me like it could be linked with the army from the bottomless pit in Revelation 9:1-11. Perhaps also the "nation of fierce countenance" spoken of in Deuteronomy 28:49-50

Joel 3:9-17 "(14) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (15) The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. (16) The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."

Joel 3:9-17 sounds like the events of the sixth seal in Revelation 6.

Obadiah 1:15-16 "For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head."

Zechariah 14:1-21 This passage describes judgment, battle, destruction, and peace.

"(1) Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. (2) For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half the city shall go forth into captivity... (3) Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle... (9) And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.... (20) In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD;"

The day of the Lord, in the New Testament:

1 Corinthians 5:3-5 "(3) For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed...concerning him that hath so done this deed... (5)to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Although Paul is writing to the church at Corinth about someone who has sinned, we can see that for believers, the day of the Lord is salvation, not destruction.

2 Corinthians 1:14 "As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Like a thief in the night:

There have been many sermons preached, books written, movies made, and comic books illustrated on this topic.

{1 Thessalonians 5:1-3} *"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

{2} *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

{3} *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."*

But not for Christians! We are not in darkness about that day..

I learned from my wife that "mothers are not generally surprised by the onset of labor at the end of nine months of pregnancy." As a matter of fact, they can see and feel the signs, and are counting down the days.

Which is why, in retrospect, I'm a little surprised that I never once heard a preacher go on to the next verses:

{1 Thessalonians 5:4-9} *'But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

{5} *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

{6} *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

{7} *For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*

{8} *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

{9} *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

Leaving aside the nearly 50 million Christians murdered by il Papi's little pagan cult during the Crusades, and the inquisition... Verse 9 has often been used to illustrate that Christians cannot be here for tribulation.

I've even heard some claim that for God to allow his bride to go through tribulation, would be akin to spousal abuse. Which flies in the face of 1 Peter 4:12-13, Psalms 116:15, and others.

The passage about not being appointed unto wrath, applies in two ways:

{John 3:36} *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

If you are a believer, you will not suffer the wrath of God, which is hell, and the lake of fire. (the two are different. But that is a study for another day)

And...

{Revelation 16:1} *"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."*

Believers will also not suffer the vials of the wrath of God in Revelation chapter 16, which are poured out on those still living on the earth. **Which does not occur until after the last trumpet sounds.**

It's God's will that all should be saved... (see also Acts 17:30) This is why Jesus came in the first place; to die for my sins, and offer me a way of escape from the wrath to come.

{2 Peter 3:9-10} *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**"*

{10} But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;** in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

The day of the Lord will surprise unbelievers. But as 1 Thessalonians 5:4 tells us, we (believers) are not in darkness about that day.

Further, God has commanded all men everywhere to repent and believe, but like the kings of old, **most will reject the Word of God,** (See Jeremiah 36 for an example).

These facts, combined with the information contained in the previous sections, lead me to believe that the total age of the earth at the end of the day of the Lord, will be 7,000 years.

We are to keep watch, and be aware of the times:

Jesus told us to look for His coming. The context of the following verses indicates an **active** watch. We should therefore pay attention to current events, through the lens of scripture.

{Matthew 25:13} *"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."*

{Mark 13:35-37} *"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

{36} Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

{37} And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

{Luke 21:34-36} *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

{35} For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

{36} Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

The day, nor the hour:

Much has been made of the statement that we know not **the day nor the hour**. I have even heard some preachers use it as the basis for their argument that we should not study prophecy. That we should not "worry about it," because "it will all work out in the end."

However, I believe this attitude is dangerous. We are instructed in the plain text of scripture to keep watch, **because** we don't know exactly when he's coming.

{Mark 13:32-33} *"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*

{33} Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

The times and the seasons:

In Acts 1:6-8, just before Jesus left, his disciples asked "*Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" (I wonder if they still didn't quite "get it?")

But Jesus had a different task for them. He said "*It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*" [Daniel 2:20-22, God is sovereign, he alone determines times and seasons].

He went on to tell them that in the meantime, they were to be “*witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

After the description of the sequence of events surrounding the resurrection, in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, he continues in the very next chapter “*But of the times and the seasons brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4)

Pursuant to his command that we keep watch, Hebrews 10:25 tells us to keep going to church, “*...and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*”

How can we see the day approaching unless we are actively watching for it?

When the Beast arrives, and when the two witnesses begin preaching in the streets, we will be able to count the days to the coming of Jesus. See Revelation chapter 11 for details.

Similar to the idea of progressive revelation, as it pertains to Old Testament prophecies about the messiah, the closer we get to the day of the Lord, the more sure we will be about the specifics of the time of Jesus’ return.

Watch what?

Now that we know he wants us to watch for his coming, What is it exactly that we are looking for?

The mystery, the resurrection, and the gathering:

When you find the word “mystery” in the Bible (used 22 times), if you read around it, you will find that each time, he is revealing that mystery to you.

{Ephesians 1:9-10} “*Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*”

{Ephesians 3:3a,5-6} “*How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*”

{Revelation 10:7} “*But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*”

“The resurrection” (singular) is spoken of in numerous places throughout the New Testament. In Matthew 22:23-33, Mark 12:18-27, and Luke 20:27-38 (“who’s wife will she be?”), even the unbelieving Sadducees knew of the doctrine of the resurrection at the last day.

The phrase, “the resurrection” occurs 10 times in the Bible, all of which are in the New Testament. However, knowing what we know (Luke 10:24, Luke 12:48), we can see that Daniel 12:1-3 is also referring to the *two resurrections* spoken of by Jesus in John 5:29 and in Revelation chapter 20.

{Daniel 12:2} *“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”* (and to think...that comma represents a thousand years!).

Jesus referenced these two resurrections in John 5:28-29.

{John 5:28-29} *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*

{29} And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

In Revelation chapter 20, is the account of these two resurrections.

Revelation 20:5b *“...this is the first resurrection.”* Revelation 20:14 *“...this is the second death.”*

In John 11:21-26, Martha confronted Jesus about the death of her brother Lazarus. The text shows that she too was fully aware of “*the resurrection at the last day.*”

The resurrection is the crux of our faith

1 Corinthians chapter 15 is one of the clearest presentations of the foundation of our faith. It is all about the resurrection. *“But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain... For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”* (1 Corinthians 15:13-17, excerpts)

But when?

Now we come to it. When is the resurrection, the rapture, and the return of Christ?

{1 Corinthians 15:20-23} *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

{21} For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

{22} For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

{23} *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."*

Jesus is the firstfruits of them that slept (the resurrection). They that are Christs are resurrected *at his coming*.

Later, in that same chapter, we are given more detail about the sequence of events:

{1 Corinthians 15:50-52} *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

{51} *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

{52} *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*

So... at the last trumpet, the dead shall be raised and we (who are still alive) shall be changed (and made incorruptible as well).

My inclination would be to just go find the last trumpet recorded in the Bible (Revelation 11:15), and call it done. But, just in case, let's find a second witness.

Over in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 we are told that *"...if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."*

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." (1 Thessalonians 4:15)

Then, he gives us the precise order of march:

- *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout*
- *With the voice of the archangel,*
- *And with the trump of God:*
- *And the dead in Christ shall rise first:*
- *THEN we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air:*
- *And so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

The living cannot be caught up (gathered) before the dead are resurrected. *Let all things be done decently, and in order.* (1 Corinthians 14:40)

It follows then, that if you want to know when the rapture occurs, all you need do is study the resurrection.

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.” Ephesians 1:10

Now, see the following accounts from Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Important side note: to get a complete picture of what scripture means, you need to combine what each passage giving the same account is saying... NOT ponder the differences between them.

{Matthew 24:29-31} *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.”*

{30} *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

{31} *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

{Mark 13:24-27} *“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,*

{25} And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

{26} And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

{27} And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.”

{Luke 21:25-28} *“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

{26} Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

{27} And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

{28} And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Note that when taken together these passages do not say that our gathering together unto him happens immediately after the earth sees the sign of the Son of

man in heaven. Luke 21:28 lets us know that it's close. But not yet (for example, how much time between Acts 2:18 and 2:19?)

Scripture cannot be broken. The Olivet discourse, Revelation 6, and following:

The passages above from Matthew, Mark, and Luke, match up with the account of the sixth seal from Revelation chapter 6:

{Revelation 6:12-17} *"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

{13} And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

{14} And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

{15} And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

{16} And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

{17} For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

It's not the Large Hadron Collider we need to worry about. The veil will be torn from the other side.

When the heaven departs as a scroll (14), the people of earth try to hide, because they can see him on the throne, close enough that they can see his face... **right up there** (*lift up your head, for your redemption draweth nigh*)... we will all see him! That's why he said lift up your head, because just like the rest of the world in Revelation 6:16, we can see him too.

We will be rejoicing, while they will be terrified.

But he isn't coming just yet. Our redemption "*draweth nigh*," that is to say, it's close, but there are some things that still need to happen.

{Acts 2:19-20} *"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:*

{20} The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:"

All these things take place "*before that great and notable day of the Lord come.*" (Acts 2:20)

Don't be troubled, you haven't missed it:

2 Thessalonians 2 is written to those who were troubled that the day of Christ was either "at hand" or had already passed. (Given the context, "the day of Christ" is the same as "the day of the Lord.")

{2 Thessalonians 2:1-4} *"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*

{2} That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

That day – The day of Christ in which we are gathered together unto him – will not come until these things happen first:

{3} Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

{4} Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

"Don't you remember, I already told you these things?"

{2 Thessalonians 2:5-12} "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"

{6} And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

{7} For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. ["let" is a legal term. Usage: "without let or hindrance"]

{8} And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

{9} Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

{10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

{11} And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

{12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

What is the mystery of iniquity? – is it *that spirit of antichrist*? 1 John 4:3

The lord will consume him with the spirit of his mouth – *the words I speak* (John 6:63)

With the brightness of his coming – Jesus is the brightness of the Glory of God (Hebrews 1:3)

Received not the love of the truth... who believed not the truth – Jesus said I am the truth (John 14:6)

Falling away?

This may be a bit of a touchy subject for some. But Jesus warned about it in the parable of the sower and the seed. It is also one of the reasons why the subject of the end is so dear to me. If the people I care about think that they will be rescued “before all that bad stuff happens,” when they find themselves experiencing tribulation, will they feel abandoned, or misled? Will they walk away from the faith? I pray not!

Jesus used the parable of the sower and the seed to illustrate for us what will happen.

{Matthew 13:20-21} *"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; {21} Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for **when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.**"*

{Mark 4:16-17} *"And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; {17} And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, **when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**"*

{Luke 8:11-15} *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

{12} Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

*{13} **They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.***

{14} And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

{15} But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

Of the four, only one group is saved in the end.

Is this a lesson for us? Is Deuteronomy 24:1-4 an illustration or type of Hebrews 6:4-6?

{Hebrews 6:4-6} ***For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,***

{5} *And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,*

{6} *If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."*

What does this mean for us?

{2 Thessalonians 2:3} *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"*

The Day of the Lord will not come until after a falling away, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

Who is the man of Sin?

"The son of perdition" occurs only twice in the Bible. Once in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, above; and once in John 17:12, when Jesus is praying:

{John 17:12} *"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."*

Judas Iscariot is the one of whom Jesus is speaking as the son of perdition in this context. Jesus tells us earlier in John 6:70 that Judas Iscariot was a devil:

{John 6:70-71} *"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."*

It is my belief that Judas Iscariot is a type of the beast (commonly referred to as "the antichrist"). Further, the beast is the son of perdition, maybe even more literally than we have long thought.

The Beast of Revelation:

The book of Revelation gives us several clues about the beast, that reveal his identity, and possibly even his parentage.

The first place we hear about him by title is in Revelation chapter 11 when he makes war with the two witnesses who will be given power to prophesy on the streets of Jerusalem for *a thousand two hundred and threescore days (1,260) clothed in sackcloth. (Revelation 11:3)*

Side note: 1,260 divided by 30 = 42 (the same number of months that the beast was given power to continue in Revelation 13:5).

{Revelation 11:7-8} *"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."*

*{8} And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of **the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.***"

The next place the beast is mentioned is in Revelation 13. This chapter is specifically devoted to the actions of the beast and the false prophet, so there is a lot of information here.

*{Revelation 13:1-2} "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having **seven heads and ten horns**, and upon his horns **ten crowns**, and **upon his heads the name of blasphemy**. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**"*

Who is the dragon? According to Revelation 20:2 it is Satan: *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,"*

Why do you suppose Satan, who wants to "be like the most high" (Isaiah 14:12-14) would give power, a seat, and great authority to another?

Other identifying characteristics of the beast:

{Revelation 13:3-8} "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

*{4} **And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast**, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

*{5} **And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.***

*{6} **And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.***

*{7} **And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them:** and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

*{8} **And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**"*

"They worshipped the dragon, which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast." The world worships both the dragon (Satan) and the beast (the son of perdition).

A warning about “the mark of the beast:”

Revelation 14:9-12, an angel flying through the heavens warning all those who dwell on the earth against taking the mark: “...**If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand... The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God... And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**”

There is no repentance for those who take the mark. There is no coming back from that.

Chapter 17, more specifics about the beast:

{Revelation 17:3} *“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon **a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**”*

{Revelation 17:7-8} *“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the **seven heads and ten horns.**”*

{8} *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and **shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:** and **they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**”*

The bottomless pit:

It is clear from the aforementioned scriptures, that the beast of Revelation 13 (of “666” fame) is also the beast from the bottomless pit, spoken of in chapter 11 and chapter 17.

Revelation 9 tells of the opening of the bottomless pit, and even identifies by name, one of the many who were imprisoned therein.

{Revelation 9:1} *“And the fifth angel sounded, and **I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.**”*

It is my belief that this star (angel) who falls from heaven is Satan, who will be cast down after the events of Revelation chapter 12.

{Revelation 9:2} *“And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.”*

The description of the creatures that emerge from the pit is quite fearsome:

- Locusts with the power and sting of scorpions – hurt men 5 months
- Shaped like horses,
- Crowns of gold on their heads,
- Faces of men, hair of women, teeth of lions (Joel 1:6?)
- Breastplates of iron (iron kingdom, Daniel 2?)
- Their wings sound like chariots of many horses running to battle

{Revelation 9:11} *"And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."*

The king over the creatures in the bottomless pit, is an angel named Abaddon, or Apollyon.

He is the only being who is mentioned by name that comes out of the bottomless pit.

It is my contention that Abaddon/Apollyon is the beast of Revelation 11, 13 and 17.

Every generation, there is speculation about the identity of the beast, commonly referred to as "the antichrist." He wasn't Hitler, Stalin, or Kissinger. He is not Obama, Prince Charles, or even Klaus Schwab.

The beast is a supernatural being, not a man. He is a fallen angel.

But who are the locusts?

The smoke out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace, indicate a great heat. I believe that the bottomless pit is at the very heart of the earth, where every direction is up, so there is no "down." Ergo, it is bottomless.

Like the example of the rich man in Luke 16, it is a place of torment {Luke 16:23-24} *"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torment, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. {24} And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."*

These are the angels who sinned in Genesis 6, whom God charged with folly (Job 4:18). The contextual use of "folly" in the Bible, indicates that it is a deviant sexual crime.

{2 Peter 2:4} *"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"*

{Jude 1:6-7} *"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

[The day of the Lord]

{7} *Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

The dragon has seven heads and ten horns too:

In Revelation 12 is the account of the war in heaven. I noticed something interesting about Satan in that chapter:

{Revelation 12:3-4} *"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

{4} *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."* [Stars = angels, "a third part" will be cast down to earth]

Like father like son?

The dragon (Satan) has *seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head*. The Beast of 13:1 has *seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy*.

In Matthew 24 and Mark 13 we are warned against false Christs and false prophets. Just as Jesus is the Son of God; when he refers to the beast as "the son of perdition," perhaps he is talking about the actual offspring of Satan? (though I am not sure. Primarily because he is described as an angel, rather than a hybrid).

The false prophet only has power in the sight of the beast:

{Revelation 13:13-18} *"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

{14} *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

{15} *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

{16} *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

{17} *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

{18} Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

The two witnesses and the time of the end:

Revelation 11 gives the account of the two witnesses who will prophesy for a thousand two hundred and threescore days (1,260), which is 42 months, or 3.5 years.

Not coincidentally, 11:2 tells us that the Gentiles will tread the holy city (Jerusalem) under foot 42 months.

The Beast of Revelation 13 is given power to continue 42 months as well.

When they complete their testimony, God allows the beast to kill the two witnesses. They are apparently so unpopular, that everyone, all over the world, by unanimous consent do not want them buried, but allow the bodies to lie in the street, while the people of earth party and give gifts like it's Christmas time:

{Revelation 11:7-10} "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

{8} And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

{9} And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

{10} And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."

After three and a half days, God raises them from the dead, and calls them up to heaven. In the very same hour, a great earthquake destroys a tenth part of the city of Jerusalem, and seven thousand people die. *"...and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."*

When the remnant who were affrighted gave glory to God, I couldn't help but think of Matthew 23:39, where Jesus said *"...Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."*

Because as soon as they glorify God, the last trumpet blows.

The last trumpet:

After the earthquake, and after the people of Jerusalem give glory to the God of heaven, the next trumpet sounds; and it is different from the previous trumpets.

{Revelation 11:15-17} *"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*** (←--Can you hear the hallelujah chorus from Handel's *Messiah* playing in the background?)

{16} And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

*{17} Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because **thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.**"*

Once the two witnesses start preaching on the streets of Jerusalem, the countdown to the last trumpet is 42 months, 3.5 days, plus however long the earthquake in Jerusalem takes.

But wait... There's more!

A whole lot of events have got to take place before that last three and a half years. We still have seven seals, and a few trumpets before the beast is revealed.

And it's getting awfully close

If you look at world events, you can see the pieces getting set up on the chessboard.

China's stated ambition is to be the dominant global superpower. In the near term, they are moving behind the scenes to position their army to take control of the western pacific, as far East as the Solomon Islands.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) long ago infiltrated the legislature, the White house, the State house, Hollywood, social media, and other big business.

Russia's recent move to tie the Ruble to gold (with the support of the other BRICS nations) spells the end of the US petrodollar system. Which means trillions of digital dollars in banks around the world will come home, causing inflation that will destroy tens of millions of families across the country.

<https://www.ronjones.io/current-events/will-the-dollar-crash>

The US and EU seem to be spoiling for a fight with Russia over their incursion into Ukraine. Russia & Ukraine together account for some 30% of the world's wheat exports.

Reductions in fertilizer shipments will lead to poor harvests, and food shortages by fall of 2022. A number of nations have preemptively ceased food exports in order to make sure they have enough for their own people.

Gasoline and diesel prices will contribute to increased food prices.

Urea, a chemical used in nitrogen fertilizer, is also the primary ingredient in Diesel Exhaust Fluid, required by every Diesel vehicle that delivers the products that we use and consume every day. Which further exacerbates the price spikes.

A disturbing number of food processing plants have been destroyed by fire in the last 18 months. Tens of millions of chickens have been destroyed due to an alleged "bird flu."

There is a housing shortage in the United States, but interest rates are creeping up, pricing most families out of the market.

The World Economic Forum is planning "the great reset" in which global socialism has been re-branded as "stakeholder capitalism."

The central banks are working on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC – a blockchain style currency in the image of Bitcoin and the like) that will replace the

dollar, which is on life support, and on the verge of collapse. If the CBDCs become a reality, financial privacy will be destroyed. The central bank will be able to control where, when, how often, how far from home, and on what you may spend your own money. If you try to buy something that those in power do not want you to have (coca cola, fatty food, meat, guns, ammunition, gasoline), or buy it further than a specified distance from home, etc... If you do not follow their rules, "your" money will simply not work.

Speaking of guns, the effort to disarm Americans is in blitz mode right now, and will only intensify. As soon as they succeed, the crackdown will begin.

Here in America, the efforts of those who have been working for over a century to destroy our Constitutional Republic have come nearly to fruition. Politically, socially, and economically we are sitting on a powder keg, and everyone in the room is smoking.

There is a real, and increasing risk of civil war, regional war, and world war. I cannot say whether the push to disarm Americans will succeed, or whether the global conflagration to come will begin first, and make it a moot point.

In short, we are sitting on the brink of conquest, war, famine/hyperinflation, and bio-weapon attack. Just like the first four seals of Revelation chapter six describe.

The return of Jesus is close. The events of the next few years will dwarf anything we've ever imagined.

While I cannot tell you when it will all begin, I expect things to kick off within the next three months to one year.

{Mark 13:37} "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

{Proverbs 22:3} "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

{Psalms 34:7} "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

The go sign?

Here is an interesting point to ponder: Revelation chapter 5 gives the account of events around the throne of God, that precede the events of Revelation chapter 6. Revelation 5:13 appears to be kind of a "creation wide green flag event" that lets us know that the time is now. When that happens, the Lamb begins opening the seals.

The seven seals:

First four – “the four horsemen of the apocalypse”

1. White horse: Conquest – aspirations of global dominance?

{Revelation 6:1-2} *"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. {2} And I saw, and behold a **white horse**: and he that sat on him had **a bow**; and **a crown** was given unto him: and **he went forth conquering, and to conquer.**"*

2. Red horse: War – It seems clear that a sword represents war and killing. But what is the significance of a sword vs a bow?

{Revelation 6:3-4} *"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. {4} And there went out another **horse that was red**: and **power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another**: and there was **given unto him a great sword.**"*

3. Black horse: Famine, hyperinflation – The warning about the oil & wine seems to me that he is speaking of scarcity.

{Revelation 6:5-6} *"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a **black horse**; and he that sat on him had **a pair of balances in his hand**. {6} And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, **A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.**"*

Extra-Biblical, historical notes:

- A penny is a day's wage (See Matthew 20:1-16). The Roman denarius, also referred to as a penny in the Bible, had a silver content of approximately 1/10 ounce.
- A measure of wheat is approximately one quart. Which is just shy of the amount of wheat it takes to bake four one-pound loaves of bread (4 cups = 1 quart, 4 cups of wheat generally produces around 8 cups of flour).
- Worldwide salary numbers are guesstimates at best, and not to be taken as hard facts. But the global average daily wage for laborers is somewhere around \$20 US.
 - So each 11lb loaf of bread is just over \$5 USD. If you are blessed enough to live in a developed nation, you will face severe economic hardship. But there are millions of people on this planet for whom these circumstances will be deadly.

4. Pale horse: Mass death – War, famine, death, beasts of the earth. The first four seals appear to have a cumulative effect, culminating in seal #4 here.

{Revelation 6:7-8} *"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.*

{8} *And I looked, and behold a **pale horse**: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And **power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.**"*

A fourth part of the earth is nearly 2 billion people. When he refers to the beasts of the earth, does he mean that the fear of man (Genesis 9:2) will be removed from animals? Could he also be talking about Leeuwenhoek's "wee beasties?" Engineered viruses, and other bio weapons? Regardless, the number of dead will be staggering.

Cut to heaven for seal #5:

5. A cry for vengeance: the events of the fifth seal take place in heaven, but we are witness to them here in the scriptures. Not only because God is a God of order. But because everything he does is in the Bible (Amos 3:7). Additionally, I believe he is making us aware of upcoming events and timelines.

{Revelation 6:9-11} *"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:***

{10} And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

*{11} And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for **a little season**, until **their fellowservants also and their brethren**, that **should be killed as they were**, should be fulfilled."*

I believe he is using specific phrasing in order to direct our attention to other passages. The souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held... cried out for vengeance. They are told to wait for "**a little season**" until their fellowservants and brethren (other believers) that "**should be killed**" as they were killed, takes place.

Remember the beast of Revelation 13, to whom it was given power "...to make war with the saints, and to overcome them." He also has a false prophet {Revelation 13:15} *"And he [the false prophet] had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast **should be killed.**"*

I think that by using the phrase “*should be killed*” in both places, he is pointing us to the murder of those who refuse the mark in Revelation chapter 13.

To further support this, look at the list of those present at the first resurrection:

{Revelation 20:4-6} *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*”

{5} *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

{6} *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”*

But what about “a little season?”

At the beginning of Revelation 20, Satan is bound up with a great chain,
{Revelation 20:3} *“And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”*

Here too, I believe God is using this phrase to identify for his people, the length of “a little season.” Of course, by the time Satan is loosed for a little season, I will be relaxing in the camp of the saints, observing as God destroys the enemy (Revelation 20:9).

Each of these phrases “*should be killed*” and “*a little season*” only occurs two times in the Bible.

I believe every word in the Bible is there for a reason, and there are no coincidences with God.

Now things are about to get interesting.

6. Stars fell on Alabama (and everywhere else): This one's a biggie. Not that 2 billion people dead isn't a big deal, but like that old pop song says, "now we're steppin' into the twilight zone."

The events so far have been traumatic. But from here on, the events are over the top supernatural. Like nothing experienced before. The spiritual realm becomes visible to us here on earth.

{Revelation 6:12-17} *"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; (Acts 2:19-20)*

{13} *And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. (stars = angels, and not the good guys. If they were good angels, they would not be falling)*

{14} *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. (the sky parts)*

{15} *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

{16} *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: (Most of them don't believe in him. But they can see him on the throne, and are terrified)*

{17} *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (men's hearts failing them)*

(Matthew 24:29-30, Mark 13:24-26, Luke 21:25-27)

{Luke 21:28} *"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."*

Are the stars of heaven which fell unto the earth (in Revelation 6:13) early casualties during the war in heaven that is described in chapter 12? Because there are more to come, both from above, and from below.

It won't be long now. Just a few more years.

7. Take a breath: {Revelation 8:1-2} *"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."*

{2} *And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."*

Ready the Trumpets:

{Revelation 8:2-6} *"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

{3} *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

{4} *And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

{5} *And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*

{6} *And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."*

The Seven Trumpets:

1. Hail, fire, and blood: {Revelation 8:7} *"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." [Joel 1:15-20]*

A third of the trees, and all the green grass, seems to indicate that it's pretty hot. How does that affect the crops? How many people will die as a direct or indirect result of this event?

2. The burning mountain: {Revelation 8:8-9} *"And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;*

{9} And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed."

It's hard to fathom the scale of the destruction here. Oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface. 1/3 of that is just a little less than 25% of the surface of the planet.

3. Wormwood: {Revelation 8:10-11} *"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;*

{11} And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter."

First 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, now 1/3 of the fresh water is made bitter, and many die because of it.

4. One third of the sun, moon, and stars: {Revelation 8:12} *"And the fourth angel sounded, and **the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars**; so as **the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.**"*

The events of the fourth trumpet contain another phrase that only occurs twice in the entire Bible. **The third part of the stars** is used here, and in chapter 12.

{Revelation 12:3-4} *"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

*{4} And his tail drew **the third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."*

Just a few verses later, in the same chapter, we are given the account of the war in heaven, after which Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven, into the earth.

{Revelation 12:7-12} *"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, [The dragon has angels too]*

{8} And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

{9} And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. [the third part of the star of heaven. Stars = angels ("host of heaven"). Why do you suppose 33 is held so sacred to many occultists?]

*{10} And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.***

{11} And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. ["guys, this is like deep blue hero stuff!"]

*{12} Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because **he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**" [He knows he's only got a short time]*

He knows he has but *a short time* (used elsewhere in 1 Thessalonians 2:17)

Does the phrase "third part of the stars" link the fourth trumpet with the war in heaven? Are the stars that fall in Revelation 6:13 early casualties?

Intermission, with a warning:

{Revelation 8:13} *"And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, **Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!**"*

The first four trumpets seem to occur in fairly quick succession. The next two trumpets announce events that appear to take a little more time.

5. Can you catch a falling star?: {Revelation 9:1-11} *"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. [a star = him? I believe this is Satan]*

{2} And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

{3} And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

{4} And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

*{5} And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be **tormented five months**: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

*{6} And **in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.***

{7} And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

*{8} And they had hair as the **hair of women**, and their teeth were as the **teeth of lions**.
(Joel 1:6)*

{9} And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

{10} And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

*{11} And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is **Abaddon**, but in the Greek tongue hath his name **Apollyon**."*

Does Satan get his son, the beast out of jail, after which they rule the earth?

6. The 200 million devil army: {Revelation 9:13-21} *"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

{14} Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

*{15} And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for **to slay the third part of men.** [the amount of time they spend killing men?]*

{16} And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

{17} And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

*{18} By these three was the third part of men killed, **by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone,** which issued out of their mouths. [definitely supernatural]*

{19} For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

{20} And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

{21} Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

I do not know how many are left alive after the seals and the first 5 trumpets before this army kills 1/3 of the population of the planet. But the current world population is 8 Billion. 1/4 are killed during the 4th seal alone (2 Billion). 1/3 of all those who are left will be killed by this army.

This does not take into account the number killed as a result of the events marked by the other seals and trumpets, or by the beast in Revelation 13.

Suffice it to say that by the time the last trumpet sounds, the population of earth will be greatly reduced. So, it's important to remember that this flesh body can't go to heaven anyway. If the thought of dying worries you, read 2 Corinthians chapter 5.

The mighty angel, warming up the final blast:

{Revelation 10:1-2} *"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:*

{2} And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,"

I believe this is Jesus. For several reasons:

{Daniel 7:13} *"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."*

{Ezekiel 1:28} *"As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake."*

{Isaiah 42:8} *"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."*

{Matthew 17:2} *"And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light."*

In Revelation chapter 6, only Jesus was worthy to open the book.

{Revelation 10:5-7} *"And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,*

{6} And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

{7} But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

"When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more..."

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" (Ephesians 1:9-10)

The Hallelujah chorus:

{Revelation 11:15-19} *"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.** [If you've ever heard Handel's "messiah," this is where they shout "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Halle-lu-jah!"]*

*{16} And **the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,***

*{17} Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because **thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.***

{18} And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

{19} And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

At each of the other trumpets, something traumatic happened to the earth, and the people on the earth. The events of the seventh trumpet sound more like a change of command ceremony.

There is some mopping up to do, but Jesus will take care of that (Hebrews 4:12-13)

{Revelation 19:15, 20-21} *"And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword,** that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

{20} And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

*{21} And **the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth;** and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."*

Next up: the seven vials of the wrath of God

These pages are only a brief introduction to the events of the end. There are still a number of events that take place after the seventh trumpet. So this document will remain a work in progress.

If Jesus returns sometime during 2030 as I expect (feast of trumpets?), the beast rules for 3.5 years, putting his arrival, signaled by the 5th trumpet, early in 2027... This arrival is preceded by world war, global famine, starvation, falling angels, global earthquake, mass death... then we haven't much time to get our hearts & houses right... RIGHT NOW! to *come out from among them and be ye separate*, and to stay out of the way as best we can.

There is no guarantee that hiding away in some rural corner of the world will keep you safe through all that is to come, my reading of scripture tells me that *"we shall not all sleep,"* but a whole lot of us will. Our focus should be to glorify God, and preach the Gospel.

By the same token, when Satan tempted Jesus with 'if you're the Son of God, jump off the top of this temple here. The angels will catch you so that you don't break your foot on the stone.' Jesus replied "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." So, rather than hang out in a big blue city, perhaps it would be wise to learn from the example of Proverbs 22:3 and 27:12 – *"A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."*

Now might also be a good time to do a deep study on the fear of the Lord. Because, as he promised: *"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."* {Psalms 34:7}

Conclusion

This is just scratching the surface. **But watching must be a continuous study.**

I mostly stayed away from the book of Daniel, because it is sealed until the time of the end. Which means I believe that when it's time, God will open it to us. That is not to say I don't think we should read it, or study it, or ask God to open it to us (Jeremiah 33:3, John 16:13). However, I take a dim view of preachers & teachers with a "Daniel Unsealed" attitude.

There are, no doubt, many other topics that we've long associated with prophecy, and the time of the end, that need to be examined just as closely, such as the mark of the beast, which I believe he tells us about in Daniel 2:40-43 (what is "seed" in the Bible? Who mingles it? And why? What simple shift in perspective would make that phrase make sense?).

After examining just this small sliver of scripture surrounding the end of days, I have come to some conclusions that I never would have thought possible as a young man growing up in an “independent, fundamental Baptist” church with preachers that embraced Dispensational theology:

- I expect that Jesus will return 2,000 years after he left.
- The day of the Lord, and our gathering together unto him will not happen until after a falling away takes place, and the man of sin (the beast) is revealed.
- We in the western Gentile church will suffer persecution and tribulation. Just like Christians have been experiencing for two thousand years.
- The years leading up to Christ’s return will be tumultuous and fraught with hardship. IF you live through the seals and the first four trumpets... Those last three and a half years, during which the Beast is in control, and is actively making war against Christians... is going to require absolute faith in Jesus.
- The rapture happens after the first resurrection. There is no secret rapture that rescues us “before all that bad stuff happens.” The resurrection will take place “at his coming.”
 - This is an important point, as there may be those who do not expect to face persecution, and without truth, might be among the many who fall away.
- The time to get ready is now.
 - Food, water, gold, and guns won’t save you. That’s all going to burn up anyway. But you will need a little to feed, and protect your family.
 - *The prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.* (Proverbs 22:3, and 27:12)
 - Kind of like the admonition to stay out of the bar district on a Saturday night, you probably don’t want to be in the city when war and famine come, or have your money stuck in a bank when the system collapses.
 - But in a larger sense, “Come out from among them and be ye separate.” Spend more time with Him, and with our fellowservants.
 - *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”* (Hebrews 10:25)